

November 23, 2009

Draft Grant Review Code of Ethics

The minutes from the September MLIA Council meeting read in part:

Role of Private Sector in Grant Application – Robin Trenbeath

The original issue was how the grant process should address the issue of the private sector being involved in the submission of a MLIA grant application, when that grant may then go through a competitive bid process that may result in a substantive change in the deliverables. A secondary Council concern surfaced regarding members (or their agency) of the MLIA Grant Subcommittee being MLIA grant applicants.

Council Recommendation: The Grant Subcommittee should include a Code of Conduct/Ethics statement that requires full disclosure of involvement and/or conflict of interest in a specific grant, with that member recusing themselves from scoring that grant. Additionally the GIO should check into any legal ramifications of either issue with State Procurement.

Proposed Code of Ethics:

Any member of the MLIA Council Grants Subcommittee, from either the public, non-profit or private sector, who has a vested interest (i.e., they or their organization will benefit financially from the approval/disapproval of the grant application) in a grant that is before the subcommittee, must disclose that interest to the other members and disqualify themselves from voting on the subcommittee's recommendation for that particular grant application. However, nothing in this code shall be construed as to preclude that person(s) from voting on the aggregate grant prioritization as proposed by the subcommittee. In addition, the vested member may participate in the subcommittee discussion, but may not propose a grant score nor have their rating for that grant calculated within the "average score" as determined by the remaining subcommittee members.